

Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

Children that are born babies (born in September, October, November, and December) are at a disadvantage to all other children in their grade every year because of the January 1 cut off. It is important to allow them more time to develop socially before being exposed to the rigorous curriculum of kindergarten. Many children are enrolled in kindergarten because grant-funded programs require them to go to kindergarten when they are not ready solely because of their birthdates. I have been teaching pre-k/kindergarten for over 14 years and I see it every year. Change the kindergarten cut off to September 1, so all children start off in the right path!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

